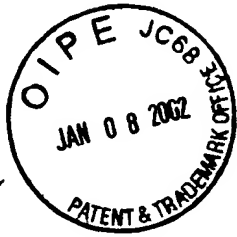


# Nutter



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November 29, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: U.S. Patent Application No. 09/966,737  
Entitled: *Expanding Ligament Graft Fixation System and Method*  
Filed: September 28, 2001  
Inventors: Daniel F. Justin, et al  
Our Ref. No.: 22956-72

Dear Sir:

I enclose herewith for filing in the above-identified application the following:

1. Information Disclosure Statement;
2. PTO-1449, two references cited therein; and
3. Return Postcard.

Please charge any additional fee to our Deposit Account No. 141449

Respectfully Submitted,

Ronald E. Cahill  
Reg. No. 38,403  
Nutter, McClennen & Fish, LLP  
One International Place  
Boston, MA 02110



COPY OF PAPERS  
ORIGINALLY FILED

Docket No.: 22956-72  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Daniel F. Justin, Richard F. Wenstrom, Jr. and Andrew  
S. Levy, M.D.  
Application No.: 09/966,737

Group Art Unit: 3738

Filed: September 28, 2001

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: EXPANDING LIGAMENT GRAFT  
FIXATION SYSTEM AND METHOD

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on the date shown below.

Dated: November 29, 2001

Signature

(Ronald E. Cahill)

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO Form 1449. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits as far as is known to the undersigned.

A copy of each reference on PTO Form 1449 is attached.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed to our Deposit Account No. 141449, under Order No. 22956-72.

Application No. 09/966,737

Docket No. 22956-72

Dated: November 29, 2001

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Ronald E. Cahill

Registration No.: 38,403

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<b>Substitute for form 1449A/PTO</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (use as many sheets as necessary)				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	09/966,737
				Filing Date	September 28, 2001
				First Named Inventor	Daniel F. Justin
				Art Unit	3738
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	022956-0072

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
	A	US-5,899,938-B1	05-04-1999	Sklar et al	
	B	US-5,632,748-B1	05-27-1997	Beck, Jr. et al	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>4</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the application number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.